

## Building the Foundation for Individualized Supports



## **Waiver Renewals**

The Partnership for Hope and MO Children with DD waiver renewals were approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services in September. Services and service limits in both waivers were updated to be consistent with the Comprehensive, Support and Autism waivers, and additional modifications were made at the request of stakeholders. Briefly those changes are:

### **Partnership for Hope:**

- Day service is replaced with Independent Living Skills Development. This service was added to the Comprehensive and Community Support Waivers during 2012.
- A provision to bill temporary residential supports in 15 minute increments is added to the service definition to enable services to be delivered in less than 24 hour increments.
- Employer-provided job supports is renamed co-worker supports to match the other waivers, and the 12 month limit is removed so that a participant may continue to receive this service as long as they are employed in an integrated workplace at competitive wages.
- The two-year limit for job preparation is clarified so that it is not construed to be a life-time cumulative limit.
- A provision is added to the 60 limit on temporary residential to enable exceptions subject to the approval of both the directors of the County Board and the Regional Office.

The geographic region was expanded to include Laclede County, and now Partnership for Hope is available in 99 counties and the City of St. Louis, and has capacity to serve 3125 participants this year.

### **MO Waiver for Children with DD:**

- New services are Independent Living Skills Development, Behavior Analysis, Person Centered Strategies Consultant, and Assistive Technology.
- Annual service limits for environmental modifications and specialized medical equipment have been increased from \$5,000 to \$7,500 with a provision to exceed this on a case-by-case basis.

The Division would like to offer a sincere thanks to the many stakeholders providing input on the development of the waiver reapplications during late 2012 and early 2013. Both waivers are approved for a five year period extending through September 30, 2018.

## **Kirksville Region Behavior Resource Team finds the Tiered Supports Consultation process results in fewer EMTs for agencies participating in the project as compared to agencies who are not participating in the project.**

The Tiered Support Consultation involves assisting agencies in reviewing their systems/policies and procedures they currently have in place and identifying areas of enhancement so those systems promote Individuals having better quality lives. The Tiered process helps a family or agency build this kind of support and system for implementing the important that is compatible with the family or agency culture. The Behavior Resource Teams in each region are collaborating with agencies who have expressed an interest in the process. The process has been ongoing for the past 18 months for many agencies.

The components for successful implementation of evidenced based practices that result in the best Quality of Life for individuals supported and those providing the support are:

- Healthy, Positive, Enriched Environment
- Common approach to teaching & providing encouragement for what to do and what not to do
  - Clear, consistent, positive expectations (behaviors)
  - Procedures for teaching expected behaviors (and functional skills)
  - Continuum of Procedures for encouraging expected behaviors

- Continuum of Procedures for discouraging undesirable behaviors that are not coercive or punishment based
- Sustained and systematic support by decision makers, implementation of practices by all, and data on use of practices and effectiveness of practices

The Tiered Support Consultation process is adapted from the Missouri School Wide Positive Behavior Support model (SWPBS). SWPBS has repeatedly resulted in positive outcomes for students in terms of reduction in problem behaviors and improved academic performance. It has also improved teacher/staff satisfaction and reduced turnover.

Tiered Support Consultation process can offer improvement in problems such as:

- High Staff turnover, constantly retraining staff, effects it has on the individuals due to these issues.
- Staff not feeling they have the skills to support the level of behavioral needs. The primary best practice is development of skills for staff such as in the Tools of Choice Training.
- Staff not feeling safe in their work environments, and individual's being asked to move
- Staff not feeling valued and appreciated.

The Tiered Support Consultation process focuses on adoption of person centered, positive, proactive and preventative strategies of support. The goals are:

- To assist individuals to have a better quality of life building on their strengths and in learning positive desirable behaviors Their strengths
- To decrease the need for higher levels of behavioral support services
- To assist the individuals in leading a more self-determined life, better quality of life
- To assist agencies in developing systems to train staff on positive and preventative strategies

A review of the Event Management Reports for the Kirksville region finds that agencies active in the Tiered Supports process are experiencing fewer reportable incidents involving harm, while the agencies who are not involved in the process have an increasing trend in EMTs.